



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



WELCOME HOME 152ND

Sixty-eight Soldiers of the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, South Dakota Army National Guard, arrived in the United States today, Dec. 10, after serving a five-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Members of the Pierre-based 152nd arrived in Fort Hood, Texas, and will spend about a week here completing de-mobilization requirements before returning to South Dakota.

The 152nd's mission was to provide multi-functional combat support and combat service support to forces throughout an assigned area of operation. Multi-functional areas include supply, transportation, maintenance and ordnance support.

No details of the unit's arrival to South Dakota or welcome home ceremony are known at this time. Details of the unit's arrival home will be made available to the public as soon as they are confirmed.



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MILITARY SPOUSE SCHOLARSHIPS

The National Military Family Association has opened its applications for spouse scholarships as of December 1st. Military Spouse Scholarships are now available. The mission of this scholarship program is to help prepare military spouses for meaningful employment and to better contribute to their family's financial security.

The Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarships are awarded to spouses of all Uniformed Services members:

- Active Duty
- National Guard and Reserve
- Retirees
- Survivors

The scholarship funds may be used for tuition, fees, and school room and board for:

- GED or ESL
- Vocational training and Professional certification
- Degree seeking (undergraduate and graduate degrees, including Ph.Ds. and post-doctoral programs)
- Licensure fees
- Clinical supervision for specific mental health licensure
- In-class or on-line
- Full-time or part-time

Scholarship selection is based on completion of some survey questions which will help advocate for education changes on the spouses behalf, short-answer questions, and an essay question which will help the NMFA get to know the applicant better. You must be a military spouse to apply.

<http://www.militaryfamily.org/our-programs/military-spouse-scholarships/>



NATIONAL MILITARY FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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Our Programs

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Military Spouse Scholarships

Scholarships are now available - **APPLY NOW!**

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CTVSOS TO DISTRIBUTE COMMEMORATIVE BOOKS TO KOREAN WAR VETERANS

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs recently received a large shipment of the book entitled: *Korea Reborn: A Grateful Nation Honors War Veterans for 60 Years of Growth*. The Republic of Korea recently produced this commemorative book and shipped thousands of copies to the United States for distribution to Korean War Veterans in honor of the 60th anniversary of the end of the Korean War.

The Department is distributing these books to our County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers to forward to their Korean War Veterans.



EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

In December, two employees from the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home were recognized for years of service. Recognized were Nancy Keith (seven years) and Brenda Schanckenberg (eleven years).

SDDVA Secretary Zimmerman noted that, "the Department of Veterans Affairs is fortunate to have an outstanding team of professionals who every day dedicate their time to improving the lives of South Dakota's veterans."

Thanks Nancy and Brenda for your outstanding service.

AGE KNOWS NO BOUNDARY WHEN IT COMES TO SUPPORTING VETERANS

Every year, Pierre Elks Lodge 1953, collects gifts for South Dakota's veterans. They place collection boxes at over 30 sites in the Pierre, Fort Pierre, Blunt, Draper and Presho communities. Two weeks later they go back and pick up the boxes and distribute the gifts to veterans at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home and at the VA facilities in Hot Springs.



What's unique to this project? Age knows no boundaries when it comes to supporting our veterans. The box located at Jefferson Elementary School in Pierre is bursting at the seams. First, third and fourth graders were proud to demonstrate their thankfulness to South Dakota's veterans and as such their box is full and ready for delivery to the veterans.

STATE VETERANS HOME WINS FIRST PRIZE IN PARADE OF LIGHTS

Communities throughout the state host "Parade of Lights," an annual time-honored holiday tradition. Whether you're a participant or a spectator, these events are festive and delightful for all ages.

For years, the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home has had an entry in the Hot Springs Parade of Lights and this year won first prize in the "Best of Theme" category for their rendition of "The Children's Christmas."

Sandy Huddleston, MJFSVH Buildings and Grounds staffer, is the inspiration behind the float. This is not new to Sandy. He has been the designer for the Home's entry for the past ten years and has been successful in securing numerous prizes. You can bet that as Sandy and his crew were disassembling this year's float, they were already strategizing for next years!!!! Kudos Sandy, for a job well done!!!!



Upcoming Events

2013

Dec. 14—SD Veterans Council Legislative Roundtable—VFW—Rapid City

Dec. 14—Wreaths Across America Ceremony—Black Hills National Cemetery—10:00 am

2014

Jan. 14—South Dakota Legislative Session Opens

Jan. 18- 129th MPAD Reintegration 30 Day Yellow Ribbon Event—Rapid City

Jan. 24-26—American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Crossroads—Huron

Jan. 25-26- 235th MP Reintegration 30 Day Yellow Ribbon Event—Chamberlain Cedar Shore Resort

Jan. 31—SD Veterans Council Breakfast with Legislators—6:30 am

Feb. 6—American Legion Legislative Reception—Post 8—Pierre

Feb 15-16- 152nd Reintegration 30 Day Yellow Ribbon Event—Sioux Falls

Feb. 18-20—SDDVA New VSO Orientation—Sioux Falls

Apr. 5-6—152nd Yellow Ribbon

May 2-4—DAV Conference—Ramkota Hotel—Aberdeen

Jun. 19-22—American Legion Conference—Ramkota Hotel—Pierre

Aug. 25-27—SDDVA Veterans Benefits School—Ramkota Hotel—Pierre



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